



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

October 15, 2024 - 1:30 p.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. 2025 Legislative Platform Proposals and Update

[2024-458](#)

Sponsors: Policy & Planning



Board Workshop / Discussion

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Item Number: 2024-458

Meeting Date: 10/15/2024

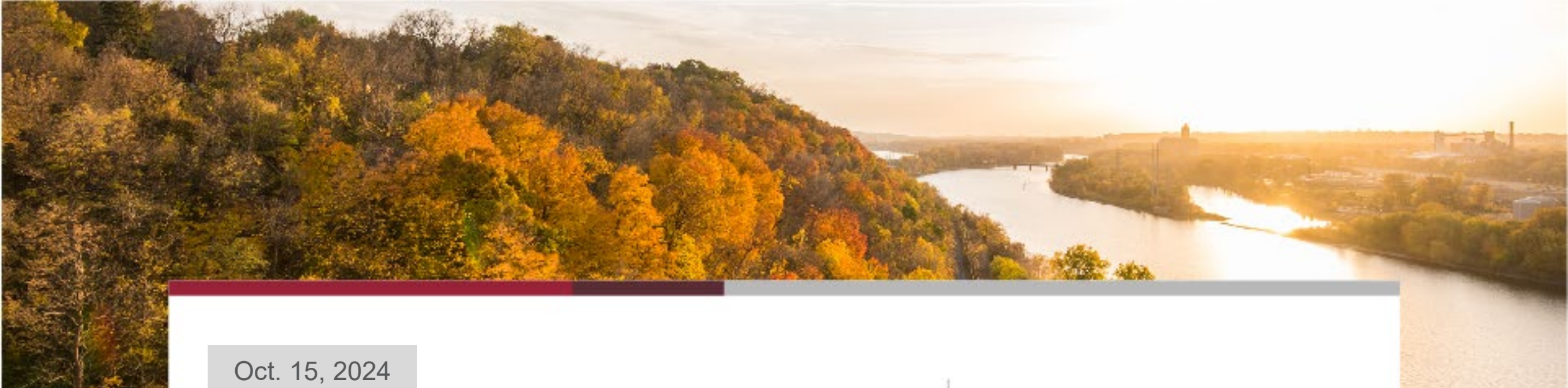
Sponsor: Policy & Planning

Title

2025 Legislative Platform Proposals and Update

Attachment

1. Presentation



Oct. 15, 2024

2025 Legislative Platform Proposals and Update

Presentation to Ramsey County Board of Commissioners



Agenda

Introduction	Commissioner Rena Moran
Overview & Legislative Outlook	Jennifer O'Rourke, Government Relations
Platform Development Update & Discussion	Jennifer O'Rourke, Government Relations Melissa Finnegan, Government Relations

Purpose

- Analysis of the 2025 state and federal legislative climate.
- Share legislative platform development process and next steps.
- Review list of proposed legislative platform items.
- Discussion and take input for items to refine, add, remove or reprioritize.



2025 State & Federal Legislative Outlook

State Legislative Outlook

- Ramsey County Delegation positioned well.
- Election season almost everywhere.
 - House Majority need 68.
 - Senate Majority need 34.
- November Forecast-Revenue projects up \$189 million.
- Governor's Budget-January 28, 2025.
- Democrats will want a bonding bill.
- State Office Building is closed; House offices in the Centennial Building.

Federal Legislative Outlook

- MN's delegation remains well positioned to support Ramsey County.
- Emergency needs could mean Congress is called back before November.
- Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to maintain until 12/20/24.
- Post-election political landscape will influence direction of lame-duck session.
- Lame-duck session.
 - Appropriations bills will resume.
 - FY 2024 & FY 2025 Ramsey County Community Project Funding (i.e., Earmarks or Congressionally Directed Spending).
 - Possible additional legislation: Defense Authorization, WIOA & Farm bill.

Government Relations' Approach to Lobbying/Equipping the Organization

- Expanded team.
- Be present at the Legislature, with all internal/external stakeholders.
- Currently provide weekly newsletter update, Monday Morning Legislative Update group, testifying assistance.
- Working to provide more opportunities and learning for employees.
- Legislative Team meets regularly.

Platform Development

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2024 **STATE** PLATFORM



VIEW ONLINE [RAMSEYCOUNTY.US/LEGISLATIVEPLATFORMS](https://ramseycounty.us/legislativeplatforms)

2025 Platform Development Process

Meet with Legislative Team	Aug 8
Presentation to Strategic Management Team and meetings with individual service teams, department leaders, and SMEs	Aug – present
Meet with individual commissioners	Aug – Sept
Meet with external partners	Ongoing
Departments provide platform proposals	Sept 6 – 11
Present updates to Executive Team	Sept 18, Oct 2
Present update at Board workshop	Oct 15
Legislative Committee of the Whole	Nov 5
Delegation meeting #1	Early Dec
Final Board approval	Dec 17
Delegation meeting #2	Early Jan
2025 session begins	Jan 14

Overall Themes

- Operational excellence.
 - Focus on strengthening existing programs and functions.
 - Ensure new opportunities align with countywide Strategic Priorities.
- Full funding for any new and current mandates.
- Funding for Ramsey County bonding projects.



Priority Issues

- A fair County Program Aid (CPA) formula for Ramsey County.
- State bonding bill includes Ramsey County priorities.
- Ensure funding & support for critical community basic needs and wellbeing.
 - Addressing homelessness.
 - African American Family Preservation Act implementation.
- Leveraging ARPA funded county innovations.
 - Workforce training stipends.
 - Appropriate Responses.

Proposed New Items for 2025 Platform

Economic Growth & Community Investment

	Proposed Item	Type	Proposed Position	State or Federal
Affordable Housing	Classify HUD-funded affordable housing projects owned by private and nonprofit developers as “Private Infrastructure” under Build America, Buy America (BABA), so local governments don’t have to track origin of construction materials.	Technical	Pursue	Federal
Workforce	Exempt Guaranteed Basic Income stipends from income assessments.	Policy	Support	State
	Widen eligibility for TANF-funded programs to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.	Policy	TBD	State
	Funding to sustain Tech Squad.	Fiscal	Pursue	State
	Fund/allow training stipends & other supports to close gaps in TANF and WIOA.	Fiscal	Pursue	State
Housing Stability	Funding for Family Homelessness Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP).	Fiscal	Support	State
	Funding and policy legislation with Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care to fund shelter and supportive services.	Fiscal	Support	State
Passenger Rail	Funding for passenger rail planning, design, implementation, and operation, as well as freight capacity improvements that would benefit passenger rail service.	Fiscal	Pursue	Both
	Long-term funding to support the cost of rail liability insurance at Union Depot.	Fiscal	Pursue	State
Downtown Revitalization	Commercial Underutilized Buildings (CUB) credit for developers.	Fiscal	Support	State

Health & Wellness

Proposed item	Type	Proposed position	State or federal
MnCHOICES Cost Relief for Lead Agencies.	Fiscal	Support	State
Funding for food growing spaces and urban agriculture.	Fiscal	Support	Both
Maintain mental health crisis grant flexibility.	Fiscal	Support	State
Cap annual cost increases for individuals to receive treatment at inpatient state-operated facilities at the Consumer Price Index.	Fiscal	Support	State
Addressing the needs of Foster Youth who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Retirement Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI).	Fiscal	Support	State
Resources for initiatives focused on the mental and physical health impacts of climate change.	Fiscal	Support	Both

Safety & Justice, Information & Public Records, and Strategic Team

Service Team	Proposed item	Type	Proposed position	State or federal
Safety & Justice	Increase auto theft fund surcharge to fund auto theft prevention and intervention programs. (RCAO)	Fiscal	Pursue	State
	Clarify income reporting requirements to increase child support payments. Enable authority to stop redirection of support. (RCAO)	Policy	Pursue	State
	Authority to stop redirection of child support. (RCAO)	Technical	Pursue	State
	Pathways to Reintegration Pilot Program. (RCSO)	Fiscal	Pursue	State
	Local control on weapons in government buildings.	Policy	Support	State
Information & Public Records	Clarify PFAS liability for waste processing facilities.	Policy	Support	Federal
Strategic Team	Modernize newspaper publication requirements of board proceedings and financial information.	Policy	Support	State
	Establish PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for Ramsey County.	Fiscal	Pursue	State

Bonding Prioritization

- Lead with intentionality and focus to maximize opportunities for bonding support while reducing unnecessary staff effort.
- Criteria for prioritization:
 - Alignment to strategic priorities, racial equity impact and opportunity.
 - Previous momentum.
 - Readiness and vision.
 - Legislative buy in and support; community input.
 - Leveraging federal Infrastructure Bill funding.
 - Similar for requests of other bonding request and process for congressionally directed spending.
- Bonding Priorities Review Panel.

Bonding Priorities

2024 Priorities	2025 Proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rice Creek Commons Infrastructure: \$25 million• The Park at RiversEdge: \$20 million• Aldrich Arena & Community Event Center: \$6.4 million• Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Facility: \$10.5 million• Youth Detention Facility: \$16 million	Discussion

A photograph of a historic brick building with arched windows and a red brick chimney, partially obscured by large green trees. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the word "Discussion" in red text.

Discussion

